

New claim 6 is based on previous claim 4. The thickness of 0.45 - 0.8 mm of the photosensitive layer is disclosed on page 24, lines 1 to 2 of the present specification. The photosensitive resin plate comprising a support having formed thereon the photosensitive layer of 0.45 - 0.8 mm is supported by the Examples.

New claim 7 is based on previous claim 2.

New claim 8 is based on previous claim 3.

New claim 9 is based on previous claim 5.

With regard to Official Action paragraph 2, previous claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 112 as indefinite in the use of the term "they". In reply, the term "they" means the substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group, the substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic hydrocarbon group, the substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, or the heterocyclic group.

The rejected terminology does not appear in new claim 6.

Claims 1 to 5 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kita et al. (U.S. 4,239,850).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amount of behenic acid (0.13% by weight) in Kita et al. relied on by the Official Action is considered to represent the amount with respect to the entire composition, including a solvent. However, the amount of component (E) in the present invention is expressed with respect to the weight of the photosensitive composition excluding a solvent, i.e., the weight of the total solid components of the photosensitive resin composition, i.e., in the same way as components (A), (B), (C) and (D). Thus, in the present photosensitive composition consisting essentially of components (A) - (E), all components of the photosensitive composition are expressed with respect to the weight of the photosensitive composition excluding a solvent, i.e., the weight of the total solid components of the photosensitive resin composition.

The amount of behenic acid in Kita et al. is calculated to be 0.78% by weight with respect to the weight of the composition excluding a solvent, which is outside the scope of the present invention.

Claims 1 to 4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Holman III (U.S. 4,634,657).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

New claim 6 is directed to a photosensitive resin plate comprising a support having formed thereon a photosensitive layer of from 0.45 to 0.8 mm in thickness comprising a photosensitive resin composition, which consists essentially of components (A) - (E).

In contrast, Holman III only discloses a coating having thickness of approximately 0.20 - 0.25 mm, formed by a photoimaging composition. The presently claimed coating of from 0.45 - 0.8 mm in thickness is not taught by Holman III. Therefore, claim 6 is not disclosed or suggested by Holman III.

Furthermore, Holman III is directed to a photoimaging composition, and is used to provide a printout image, especially a colored printout image. And, in order to provide such a printout image, the composition of Holman III is applied to form a coating in a thickness of an approximately 0.20 - 0.25 mm onto a support film. Thus, Holman III does not teach or suggest the photosensitive resin composition for the production of the printing plate comprising a support having formed thereon a photosensitive layer of from 0.45 to 0.8 mm in thickness comprising a photosensitive resin composition consisting essentially of components (A) - (E), to obtain a deep non-printing depth and to exhibit excellent resolving properties.

Claims 1 to 5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Pine (U.S. 4,361,640).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Pine teaches that the mixed o,p-toluene sulfonamide is used as a plasticizer, and, in order to assure its effect, is preferably used in an amount of 6 - 15% by weight, more preferably 9% by weight. Pine also teaches that said plasticizer can be present in his composition in an amount of 0 - 18% by weight.

However, Pine does not teach or suggest the amount of 0.001 - 0.3% by weight of compound (E) of the present invention, nor does it teach or suggest the advantageous effects of the present invention that only at the said specific amount of component (E), a deep non-printing

depth is obtained and excellent resolving properties are exhibited. These are described on page 13, lines 1 to 13; page 33, lines 4 to 24 (especially lines 18 to 24), and the Examples of the specification. The said critical proportion of component (E) is necessary for the success of the present invention. However, the said critical proportion is not taught or suggested in Pine, and therefore, Pine's invention could not achieve the advantageous effects of the present invention.

It is therefore considered that the present invention is unobvious from Pine.

Claims 1 to 4 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Legere (U.S. 4,911,999).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Legere discloses a photopolymerizable composition for producing an electrostatic master for high-speed zeroprinting. Legere's invention relates to a technique for producing a duplicate copy by transferring on paper or a similar material a toner pattern which is formed by adhesion of toner particles to a portion of the photopolymerizable composition irradiated with light so as to bear charges.

Legere addresses the problem wherein even an unirradiated portion comes to bear charges to some extent, and therefore, the toner is adhered onto such a portion to which the toner should not have been adhered. In order to solve these problems, Legere's invention employs an additive (thiourea is exemplified) for increasing the electrostatic decay rate.

In contrast, the photosensitive resin composition of the present invention is employed in the production of a photosensitive resin plate useful as a printing plate, and component (E) is added to overcome the inherent disadvantage of a resin plate wherein it provides a shallow non-printing area and has poor resolving properties. Component (E) can exert the advantageous effects of the present invention only when it is added in an amount of 0.001 - 0.3% by weight. Such effect is described on page 13, lines 1 to 13; page 33, lines 4 to 24 (especially lines 18 to 24) and Examples of the specification. The said critical proportion of component (E) is necessary for the success of the present invention. However, the said critical proportion is not taught or suggested by Legere, and therefore, Legere cannot achieve the advantageous effects of the present invention.


It is therefore considered that the present invention is unobvious from Legere.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone or facsimile number below.

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